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EMA/489706/2017

## Public summary of opinion on orphan designation

### Teicoplanin for the treatment of cystic fibrosis

On 23 August 2017, orphan designation (EU/3/17/1913) was granted by the European Commission to Neupharma S.r.l., Italy, for teicoplanin for the treatment of cystic fibrosis.

#### What is cystic fibrosis?

Cystic fibrosis is an inherited disease that affects the secretion of fluids from cells in the lungs and from the glands in the gut and pancreas. In cystic fibrosis, these fluids become thick, blocking the airways in the lungs and the flow of digestive juices in the gut and pancreas. This leads to inflammation and long-term infection of the lungs because of the build-up of thick mucus, and to poor growth and nutrition because of problems with the digestion and absorption of food.

Cystic fibrosis is caused by changes (mutations) in a gene that makes a protein called 'cystic-fibrosis transmembrane conductance regulator' (CFTR), which is involved in regulating the production of mucus and digestive juices.

Cystic fibrosis is a long-term debilitating and life-threatening disease because it severely damages the lung tissue, leading to problems with breathing and to recurrent chest infections.

#### What is the estimated number of patients affected by the condition?

At the time of designation, cystic fibrosis affected less than 1 in 10,000 people in the European Union (EU). This was equivalent to a total of fewer than 52,000 people<sup>\*</sup>, and is below the ceiling for orphan designation, which is 5 people in 10,000. This is based on the information provided by the sponsor and the knowledge of the Committee for Orphan Medicinal Products (COMP).

#### What treatments are available?

At the time of designation, Kalydeco (ivacaftor) and Orkambi (ivacaftor and lumacaftor) were authorised in the EU to treat patients with cystic fibrosis who have certain mutations in the gene for CFTR. Lung infection in cystic fibrosis was mainly treated with antibiotics. Other medicines used to treat the lung disease included anti-inflammatory medicines, bronchodilators (medicines that help to

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<sup>\*</sup>Disclaimer: For the purpose of the designation, the number of patients affected by the condition is estimated and assessed on the basis of data from the European Union (EU 28), Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein. This represents a population of 515,700,000 (Eurostat 2017).

open up the airways in the lungs) and mucolytics (medicines that help break down mucus in the lungs). In addition, patients with cystic fibrosis were often given other types of medicines such as pancreatic enzymes (substances that help to digest and absorb food) and food supplements. They were also advised to exercise and to have physiotherapy.

The sponsor has provided sufficient information to show that this medicine might be of significant benefit for patients with cystic fibrosis because early laboratory studies have shown that when inhaled it may help to treat lung infections caused by meticillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) that came back after previous treatment. This assumption will need to be confirmed at the time of marketing authorisation, in order to maintain the orphan status.

## **How is this medicine expected to work?**

Teicoplanin is an antibiotic that is already available in the EU as an injection for the treatment of serious infections caused by bacteria such as MRSA for which standard antibiotics do not work. Infection with MRSA is also of major concern in patients with cystic fibrosis.

Teicoplanin belongs to the group 'glycopeptides'. It works by attaching to the surface of bacteria and preventing them from making their cell walls, eventually killing the bacteria. Teicoplanin, when given by inhalation, is expected to be effective against MRSA lung infection in patients with cystic fibrosis.

## **What is the stage of development of this medicine?**

The effects of teicoplanin (for inhalation) have been evaluated in experimental models.

At the time of submission of the application for orphan designation, no clinical trials with teicoplanin for inhalation in patients with cystic fibrosis were ongoing.

At the time of submission, teicoplanin (for inhalation) was not authorised anywhere in the EU for cystic fibrosis or designated as an orphan medicinal product elsewhere for this condition.

In accordance with Regulation (EC) No 141/2000 of 16 December 1999, the COMP adopted a positive opinion on 13 July 2017 recommending the granting of this designation.

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Opinions on orphan medicinal product designations are based on the following three criteria:

- the seriousness of the condition;
- the existence of alternative methods of diagnosis, prevention or treatment;
- either the rarity of the condition (affecting not more than 5 in 10,000 people in the EU) or insufficient returns on investment.

Designated orphan medicinal products are products that are still under investigation and are considered for orphan designation on the basis of potential activity. An orphan designation is not a marketing authorisation. As a consequence, demonstration of quality, safety and efficacy is necessary before a product can be granted a marketing authorisation.

## For more information

Sponsor's contact details:

Contact details of the current sponsor for this orphan designation can be found on EMA website, on the medicine's [rare disease designations page](#).

For contact details of patients' organisations whose activities are targeted at rare diseases see:

- [Orphanet](#), a database containing information on rare diseases, which includes a directory of patients' organisations registered in Europe;
- [European Organisation for Rare Diseases \(EURORDIS\)](#), a non-governmental alliance of patient organisations and individuals active in the field of rare diseases.

## Translations of the active ingredient and indication in all official EU languages<sup>1</sup>, Norwegian and Icelandic

Language	Active ingredient	Indication
English	Teicoplanin	Treatment of cystic fibrosis
Bulgarian	Тейкопланин	Лечение на кистозна фиброза
Croatian	Teicoplanin	Liječenje cistične fibroze
Czech	Teicoplanin	Léčba cystické fibrózy
Danish	Teicoplanin	Behandling af cystisk fibrose
Dutch	Teicoplanine	Behandeling van cystische fibrose
Estonian	Teikoplaniin	Tsüstilise fibroosi ravi
Finnish	Teikoplaniini	Kystisen fibroosin hoito
French	Teicoplanine	Traitement de la mucoviscidose
German	Teicoplanin	Behandlung zystischer Fibrose
Greek	Τεικοπλανίνη	Θεραπεία της κυστικής ίνωσης
Hungarian	Teicoplanin	Cisztikus fibrózis kezelése
Italian	Teicoplanina	Trattamento della fibrosi cistica
Latvian	Teikoplanīns	Cistiskās fibrozēs ārstēšana
Lithuanian	Teikoplaninas	Cistinės fibrozės gydymas
Maltese	Teicoplanin	Kura tal-fibrożi ċistiku
Polish	Teicoplanina	Leczenie zwłóknienia torbielowatego
Portuguese	Teicoplanina	Tratamento da fibrose quística
Romanian	Teicoplanină	Tratamentul fibrozei chistice
Slovak	Teicoplanin	Terapia cystickej fibrózy
Slovenian	Teicoplanin	Zdravljenje cistične fibroze
Spanish	Teicoplanina	Tratamiento de la fibrosis quística
Swedish	Teicoplanin	Behandling av cystisk fibros
Norwegian	Teicoplanin	Behandling av cystisk fibrose
Icelandic	Teikóplanín	Meðferð við slímseigjusjúkdómi

<sup>1</sup> At the time of designation